

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 10-18 are currently pending in the Application. In the Office Action dated December 30, 2005, the drawings were objected to on the ground that they fail to show all the features recited in the claims. Claims 10-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 based on the finding that the claims were indefinite. Claims 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the ground that they are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,522,706 ("Bueler"). Claims 10, 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the ground that they are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,555,822 ("Rivetti"). The Office Action indicated that claims 14, 15, 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under § 112 and to include all the features recited in the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action and the references cited therein. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action.

Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the form fit recited in claim 12, and the option of deforming the free end of the projection recited in claim 16, are not shown in the Drawing. Regarding claim 12, the stop and shoulder shown in Fig. 1 represent one example of a form fit as claimed. Therefore, the features of claim 12 are represented by example in the drawing.

Regarding claim 16, a stop which is "provided by deforming the free end" is shown in Fig. 1. The meaning of the phrase "deforming the free end" is synonymous with "shaping the free end". This is clear from Applicants' specification, in which the terms "deformed" and "shaped" are used interchangeably to describe the effect of wobble-riveting (See Spec. p. 4, line 9 and p. 5, line 15). The term "shaped" is also used to describe other features that form the stop, such as the stepped configuration 18 (Spec. p. 5, line 12). Therefore, the term "deforming" in claim 16 broadly refers to any shaping on the free end that provides for the stop. This is consistent with *Phillips v. AWH Industries*, 415 F.3d 1303 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (*en banc*), and *In re Johnston*, No. 05-1321 (Fed. Cir. 2006), which hold that claim terms are to be given their broadest possible meaning consistent with the specification.

In Fig. 1, the free end 16 represents one example in which the free end is shaped, i.e. deformed, to form the stop. Therefore, the features of claim 16 are shown in the drawing.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants have amended claims 10 and 15 in response to the objections made under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Regarding claim 10, Applicants have amended the claim to remove the phrase "in particular a tandem master cylinder of a motor vehicle." Claim 15 has been amended to replace the term "stop" with the term "disc". Applicants also amended claim 12 to replace the term "stop" with the term "disc". The remaining dependent claims are believed to be consistent with amended claim 10.

Claim 14 was cancelled as part of amending claim 10. Therefore, the objection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is believed to be moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action indicated that claim 14 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants believe that claim 14 is allowable over the cited references without incorporation of the elements from intervening claims 11-13. Therefore, Applicants have amended claim 10 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is allowable over the cited references in view of the subject matter added from claim 14. Since claim 14 is no longer narrower than claim 10, claim 14 has been cancelled.

Claims 11, 12, 13 and 16 are dependent on amended claim 10 and incorporate all the elements recited in amended claim 10. Therefore, claims 11, 12, 13 and 16 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons that amended claim 10 is allowable.

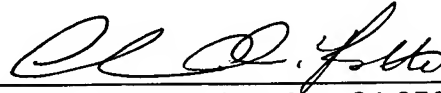
Appln. No.: 10/506,824
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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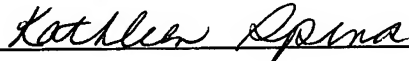
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